

**FREEHOLD BOROUGH HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**January 9, 2018**

**6:00 pm - 7:45 pm**

**Attendees:**

**Ron Griffiths**  
**Jane Fields**  
**Gianna Dell'Omo**  
**Christine Gregory**  
**Shauntele' Patterson**  
**Festus Olayinka**  
**Annette Jordan**

**Agenda Item 1. Adopt-a-Neighbor Program**

Ron will present preliminary guidelines and applicable application forms for both volunteers and eligible residents, for consideration by Borough Administration, and discuss liability with Joe Bellina, ensuring coverage under the Borough's blanket insurance policy. Prioritizing recipients with a primary and secondary list was also mentioned, including residents who although may exceed financial requirements, may also be eligible for assistance. In the event paid contractors are not available to residents in need of assistance, the borough can provide or recommend services at a reduced rate.

Flyer was forwarded to Reverend Reinkin, with request for a list of clergy contact information for distribution. Ron spoke with Jay Simms regarding Youth Government involvement for recruitment of volunteers. Annette mentioned that National Honor Society students may qualify to volunteer to meet community service requirements. Once details of program are approved and finalized, we will contact The News Transcript to print an article to promote awareness to recruit more volunteers. Applications and guidelines will also be available on the Borough's web site commencing the Spring in hope of recruiting volunteers over the Summer months. Arrangements for process of gathering applications, obtaining lists of volunteers and recipients, and contact availability to assist in coordination of the program after storms, during non-business hours, is yet to be discussed..

Intended target date for implementation is October 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall cleanup.

**Agenda Item 2. Beautification Contest**

The Committee decided to start promoting the contest early in the coming year to encourage more participants. Gianna contacted Manager of The Home Depot, Freehold, to request its participation again this year for the grand prize. Committee will approach Downtown Partnership again for prize donation, and a third prize is still needed. Once prizes are confirmed,

Committee will commence promotion of the contest, rules and prizes on the Borough's web site. Contest entries and winners will coincide with Mayor's Cleanup hosted in May.

### **Agenda Item 3. Unity Walk**

Unity Walk was presented by Shauntele. Annette mentioned she is currently working with members of Clergyman in Borough to create another unity walk, subsequent to the one the Clergy had in town two years ago. Annette invited Shauntele to her next meeting with the Clergymen to present an outline of ideas for the event. Shauntele suggested offering rock painting to the attendees, with words of inspiration to be placed around the venue. Gianna mentioned use of Veteran's Park to introduce the community to recent park renovations. Use of the park to be approved by the Borough's Recreation Committee and would, of course, be scheduled after the official opening. .

### **Agenda Item 4. Youth Community Relations**

Mel O'Neal, Manager of the Borough's YMCA attended our meeting to speak with committee members about engaging our youth. He presented the Summer Camp program, and many other programs offered by the YMCA, including SCAN, Summer Literacy program, Model United Nations, Colonial Basketball Co-Ed League, Ping Pong and Chess with the elderly, to name a few. The YMCA is continually searching for ideas and programs to unite youth with adults and seniors of the community. "Talk is Cheap" program is inspired by Seniors who share their experiences with youth to create a valuable connection.

Mel mentioned that more adult volunteers are needed to assist in programs. Festus mentioned a mentor program consisting of members of council and town officials. Ron suggested offering work intern positions within the municipal offices to interested youths.

Also it was suggested that volunteers may be recruited through an online virtual volunteer link to the Borough web site.

Funds are needed to continue programs and an idea for Corporate sponsorship was suggested by Christine.

The Committee continued conversation about problems with today's youth and drug addiction, involving children and their parents, and to create programs that will educate and interact with both.

**Next Meeting Date: February 6, 2018**